



Department of Energy
Germantown, MD 20874-1290

JUN 03 1999

Mayor James Matayoshi
Rongelap Atoll Local Government Council
Republic of the Marshall Islands
P.O. Box 1766
Majuro, Marshall Islands 96960

Dear Mayor Matayoshi:

Prompted by Mr. Howard Hills' e-mail message to me on May 15, 1999, regarding implementation of the DOE/RML RALGOV Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for environmental monitoring support at Rongelap Island, I am writing to update you on the status of our joint progress implementing the MOU. I have divided the discussion into two categories: whole body counting and plutonium urinalysis.

1. Whole Body Counting

- The Department of Energy (DOE) delivered the whole body counting chair (without electronics) to Rongelap Island on May 5, 1999. The chair was placed in temporary storage pending Rongelap Atoll Local Government's (RALGOV) completion of the building in which it will be finally housed.
- DOE is prepared to pay training expenses, excluding travel and per diem, for two or three Rongelapese persons in whole body counting techniques at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL). The first training class, originally scheduled to begin May 31, 1999, was postponed awaiting the names of nominees from RALGOV. The next available training class at LLNL is September 1999. To accommodate heightened security measures at LLNL and assure that training can begin in September, DOE must receive the names and resumes of RALGOV's nominees by July 16, 1999.
- On May 15, 1999, RALGOV proposed one Rongelapese candidate to receive whole body counting training at LLNL. I request, for the program's efficiency and stability, that RALGOV nominate at least two training candidates as specified by the MOU. I have enclosed for your use guidelines concerning the desired background of the candidates. Please provide DOE a resume including this information for each person RALGOV nominates for the LLNL training.
- Upon completion of the LLNL training, the two newly trained and certified Rongelap technicians, along with LLNL technical specialists, will go to Rongelap to set up and begin operating the whole body counting facility. DOE will provide state-of-the-art electronics to power the chair at that time.



2. Plutonium Urinalysis

- As of today, DOE has taken 35 "baseline" urine samples from workers on Rongelap. DOE is paying to process the urine samples for 18 of the 35 workers. We expect to have the final test results for these 18 samples by August 1, 1999.
- The remaining 17 baseline samples already taken are waiting to be processed pending contractual arrangement between RALGOV and the University of Utah (DOE's contractor performing the tests). Under the provisions of the MOU, RALGOV is responsible for paying to process and analyze 50 percent of the urine samples taken.
- DOE, based on conversations with the Rongelap construction contractor, estimates that some 10-20 individuals have worked on Rongelap and since left employment there without benefit of having their urine sampled. It is likely that some of these individuals are missing both entrance (baseline) and exit (final) urine samples while others are missing only the exit sample. It is crucial that DOE be notified of new and terminating employees so that urine samples can be obtained. Please ask your representatives to work with Mr. William Jackson, DOE's Field Operations Manager, to arrange a way to notify DOE and assure that all Rongelap workers are afforded the agreed urine testing.
- DOE, based on conversations with the Rongelap construction contractor, anticipates that another 25-50 workers are likely to be hired. Assuming proper notification, DOE will take entrance (baseline) and exit (final) urine samples from each.
- DOE will provide each Rongelap worker whose urine is sampled with the specific test results coming from his or her urinalysis. The data will also be released to the public in summary form (using ID numbers to assure individual privacy) by way of the world-wide-web.

In a separate matter, Mr. Hills asked when DOE would notify the Marshallese who were evaluated for anemia in the chromium-51 and treated water clinical tests conducted by Brookhaven National Laboratory from 1961-1963. (Reference the April 29, 1999, letter from Paul J. Seligman, M.D., M.P.H., to Rongelap Mayor Matayoshi.) Notification of the individuals is scheduled to begin immediately.

In closing, I believe there are a number of important matters that need attention. My desire is that we work together to address them and achieve full implementation of the MOU. Let us begin that process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Hawkins", with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Frank Hawkins
Director
Office of International
Health Programs

Enclosure

cc w/enclosure:

Ambassador Banny de Brum, RMI Embassy

Troy Barker, Rongelap City Manager

Howard Hills, Esq.

Earl P. Gilmore

Qualification Guidelines for Personnel to be Trained as Whole Body Counting Technicians

1. One to two years formal education beyond High School
2. Good communication skills (written and spoken) in English
3. Ability to work independently and with others
4. Willing to make a long-term commitment
5. Familiarity with PC preferred